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SOWERBY BRIDGE
Urban District Council

Annual
REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(J. LYONS,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

and the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
(Wm. E. FOSTER,
A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.)

for the Year
1953

Hebden Bridge:
Kershaw and Ashworth Ltd., Market Street.



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URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor W. TATE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor E. LUMB, J.P.

Members of the Council:

Coun. G. A. Benbow	Coun. J. Greenwood
„ A. Butterworth	„ H. Haigh
„ W. Crossfield, J.P.	„ C. Hollas
„ Miss E. Judson	„ N. Sutcliffe
„ H. Wilcock	„ F. Lord
„ E. English	„ T. H. Longbottom
„ I. Atha	„ J. Ainscow
„ R. H. Campbell	„ Mrs. E. Bagshaw
„ C. W. Maude, J.P.	„ G. Fernyhough
„ A. Crossfield	„ W. F. Turner
„ W. Greenwood, J.P.	„ Miss L. Wilson

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Health Committee:

Coun. H. Haigh (Chairman)
„ W. Greenwood (Vice-Chairman)
„ A. Crossfield
„ W. Crossfield, J.P.
„ G. Fernyhough
„ Miss E. Judson
„ Mrs. E. Bagshaw
„ W. F. Turner
„ Miss L. Wilson

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health:

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Vacant.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

J. Holmes, C.R.S.I.

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL

Preventive Medical Services : Health Division 19

Staff with duties in the Sowerby Bridge District—

Divisional Medical Officer:

As above (M.O.H.)

Assistant County Medical Officer:

NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (commenced 1-10-53).

Assistant County Medical Officer, and Medical Officer to Sowerby Bridge Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics:

ALICE SEELIG, M.D.

School Dental Officers:

†P. CUMMINGS, L.D.S.

†R. O. LIBROWICZ, L.D.S.

†J. R. SLATER, B.Ch.D.

Health Visitors

E. B. NOWERS, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.C.N

*M. O. FORRESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

M. SOUTHWELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor:

*B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker:

*E. C. WROE, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.M.N., H.V.

Midwives

*A. G. REID, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse.

*D. SANDERSON, S.R.N., C.M.B., Queen's Nurse.

*M. HOLDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Relief Midwife for whole Divisional Area).

Home Nurses:

A. KLEINDIENST, S.R.N., R.F.N., Queen's Nurse.

*A. M. SCHOLLICK, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse.

A. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M.

*K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N.

*E. S. SIDDALL, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse (Relief Home Nurse for whole Divisional Area).

* Also have duties in other parts of this Division

† Part time.

HALIFAX AREA HOSPITALS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**Consultant Staff****Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:**

W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

Chest Physician:

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Orthopædic Surgeon:

G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeons:

R. W. GREATORIX, M.B., Ch.B. (Retired April, 1953)

S. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S. (Commenced April, 1953).

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,
Todmorden.

October, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the seventh Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Ripponden and Hebden Royd, and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year indicate a generally satisfactory level of health in the community. The infant mortality rate was again remarkably low (16.8 per 1,000 live births) and it is interesting to note that the infant mortality rate of the Division as a whole was the lowest on record, viz.: 19.0 per 1,000 live births. This figure was also lower than in any of the other 29 West Riding Divisions and compares very favourably with the rate of 26.8 for England and Wales. There were no deaths arising from confinement or childbirth—a tribute to the efficiency of both the district and hospital midwifery services.

There was a higher incidence than usual of some of the less severe infectious diseases, including measles, whooping-cough, scarlet fever and dysentery. Notifications of pneumonia were also above average in number, most of the cases occurring in elderly persons after influenza. Deaths from pneumonia were not, however, above the average for this district.

None of the 146 children notified as suffering from whooping-cough had been vaccinated against this disease under the provisions of the County Council Scheme but it would be premature to regard this as confirmation of the value of this relatively new form of immunisation.

Nearly all the scarlet fever cases were exceptionally mild, some of the children being scarcely ill at all. Many appeared to have acquired their infection from other

children who had had sore throats but no rash. Indeed, it is clear that the rash is merely one of a number of variable signs and symptoms of a mild infectious disease affecting probably large numbers of children, yet it is only those with a rash who have to be notified to the M.O.H. In these circumstances effective control is impossible and, as long as scarlet fever remains in this mild phase, I fail to see that any useful purpose is served either by routine hospitalisation or statutory notification.

The outbreak of mild dysentery (of the “sonne” type) was more widespread than in any previously recorded local epidemic of the disease in recent years. It chiefly affected young children. The number of cases statutorily notified was 22 but there is evidence to indicate that the total number of cases was considerably higher. All the families of notified cases were investigated and, in most instances, one or more of the other members of the family (including adults) were found to be infected, some without having had any symptoms whatever. Two food-handlers in contact with the disease were advised to stay off work temporarily: they co-operated fully. The spread of diseases of this kind can only be checked by a higher standard of personal hygiene. The practice of thoroughly washing the hands after every visit to the “toilet” would, if universally adopted, take us a long way towards the complete elimination of dysentery and of other similar infections, including the more common types of food poisoning. The importance of the training of young children by parents and teachers in the elementary rules of cleanliness is underlined. The use of communal towels encourages the spread of infection and representation has been made to the Education Authority for their replacement in schools by individual towels.

The continued absence of diphtheria is making it increasingly difficult to persuade mothers to have their babies immunised against this disease. Less than one half of the infants born in 1952 were immunised before the end of 1953, many mothers being prepared to wait until the children are inoculated at school. This parental reluctance is also partly due to the fact that under the County Council Scheme there is no provision for **combined** diphtheria—whooping-cough immunisation; this follows some uncertainty expressed by the Medical Research Council on the efficacy of the combined reagent. It is anticipated, however, that these doubts may soon be dispelled. In the meantime parents should remember that immunisation is the only real safeguard against the recrudescence of diphtheria epidemics.

The tuberculosis statistics show the progress made towards the ultimate elimination of this disease. Only 20 new cases were notified as compared with 36 in the previous year and there was only one death. Unfortunately, cancer of lungs has waxed where tuberculosis has waned, deaths reaching the unprecedented figure of 9 during the year under review. Recent research points a finger of suspicion at smoke pollution of the atmosphere as well as at excessive cigarette smoking. It is to be hoped that intelligent individuals and far-seeing local authorities will not wait for positive proof before taking appropriate action.

The care of the aged continues to be the daily concern of the Divisional Health Department. The local Old People's Welfare Committee has assisted in the ascertainment of persons requiring special attention and the Home Nursing, Home Help and Health Visiting Services of the County Council are fully extended in an effort to keep the old folk happy and healthy in their own homes.

The housing position has been reviewed in the light of Ministerial statements of policy. The possibilities of slum clearance are being seriously considered and it is hoped that a modest start may be made within the next year or two. The chief difficulty is, of course, the problem of rehousing the tenants of cleared property, the solution of which is not rendered easier by the fact that many of those who at present inhabit unfit houses (including a considerable number of pensioners) are questioning their ability to pay the rents of post-war Council houses.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness, patience and co-operation, and to thank Mr. Foster, Sanitary Inspector, for his kindness and efforts to give me the sanitary circumstances of the area, and indeed to all your officials with whom I made contacts: personal and official.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

Vital Statistics

STATISTICS

Area (Census 1951)	5,763 acres
Population, Registrar-General's estimate of	
Resident Population, mid-1953	18,530
Population (Census 1951)	18,770
Number of dwelling-houses	6,830
Rateable Value	£89,467
Product of a Penny Rate	£349

Summary of Vital Statistics

	Total	M	F	
Live Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	288 10	151 5	137 5	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident Population: 16.1
Still Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	4 —	2 —	2 —	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 13.2
All Deaths	226	112	114	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 12.2
Deaths of infants under 1 year Legitimate Illegitimate	5 —	3 —	2 —	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births): 16.8

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.

1953

Cause of Death		M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	5	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	10
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16.	Diabetes	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous systems	10	15
18.	Coronary disease, angina	19	9
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
20.	Other heart disease	22	32
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	2
22.	Influenza	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	8	1
24.	Bronchitis	5	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	4	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	9	6
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
34.	All other accidents	3	3
35.	Suicide	3	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—

TOTAL, ALL CAUSES 112 114

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1953:

Based on Registrar General's Figures

	Sowerby Br'ge U.D.	Ripponden U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton R.D.	Todm'den M.B.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W. Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE:— (per 1,000 estimated population)	16.1	14.2	13.4	10.6	12.9	15.4	15.7	15.5
DEATH RATES:— (All per 1,000 estimated population). All Causes.	12.2	11.7	14.5	10.6	13.2	12.5	11.6	11.4
Infective and parasitic diseases *	—	—	0.10	—	0.27	0.09	0.08	* *
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	—	—	0.25	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.18
Other forms of tuberculosis	0.05	—	—	—	—	0.02	0.02	0.02
Respiratory Diseases:—† (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.35	0.96	1.70	1.97	1.45	1.39	1.30	* *
Cancer	2.32	3.46	2.50	0.98	2.25	1.99	1.88	1.99
Heart and circulatory diseases‡	4.75	3.66	5.99	3.68	4.67	4.63	4.26	* *
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1.35	1.73	2.10	1.72	2.31	1.96	1.76	* *
INFANT MORTALITY:— (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	16.8	—	44.8	23.3	12.5	27.6	29.3	26.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY:— (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births)	—	—	—	—	—	0.38	0.51	0.76

* Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, acute poliomyelitis, meningococcal infections, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, and other infective and parasitic diseases.

† Combined death rate from influenza, bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

‡ Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system.

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Hospitals

There is no hospital in Sowerby Bridge. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Shelf Sanatorium, Northowram Hall Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

Maternity beds are available at both the Halifax General and Royal Infirmary. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g., Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospitals Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

(B) Ambulance Service

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighouse—telephone Brighouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

(C) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Services (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford.

(D) Issue of Anti-Toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office. The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the Division.

A supply of re-agents for diphtheria and whooping-cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation.

SECTION III

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Clinics and Treatment Centres

Infant Welfare

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Thursdays	}	2 p.m.
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	Fridays		
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal			
Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Mondays	}	to
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	1st Friday in month		4 p.m.

School Clinics

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge		
(a) Minor Ailments	Mondays	10 a.m. to 12 noon
(b) Dental	As required	} by appoint- ment.
(c) Ophthalmic	As required	
(d) Ear, Nose and Throat	As required	
(e) Artificial Sunlight	Tuesdays Fridays	

Smallpox Vaccination

Diphtheria Immunisation

Whooping-Cough Immunisation

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge At any Minor Ailments or
The Institute, Luddenden Foot Welfare Clinic, by arrange-
ment with Medical Officer.

(B) Care of Mothers and Young Children

Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot

Ante-Natal Clinics

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	97
Total number of attendances	427

Child Welfare Clinics

Number of consultations by doctor during the year	1123
Total number of attendances	3209

Home Visiting of Infants

Total number of live births to Sowerby Bridge mothers	298
Number of first visits to children under 1 year ...	276
Total number of visits to children under 1 year...	1326
Total number of visits to children aged 1-5 years	1799

Day Nursery Accommodation

There is a Day Nursery situated on the Beech Recreation Ground to which Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden children may be admitted under certain conditions.

Care of Premature Infants

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

Provision of Maternity Outfits

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

(C) Professional Nursing in the Home

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing and midwifery services in Sowerby Bridge. There were four full-time Home Nurses and two full-time Midwives employed in 1952. Two of the Home Nurses and both Midwives, however, did not work wholly in the Sowerby Bridge area, also having duties in other parts of the Divisional Area.

Midwifery Service

Number of home confinements	80
Number of hospital confinements	222

Analgesia.—The Sowerby Bridge midwives are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and are provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor. It is hoped that more mothers will make use of this valuable service.

(D) Health Visiting

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

(E) Home Helps

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1953 71 cases were attended by Home Helps as compared with 48 cases the previous year, and the total number of hours worked was 9,878.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households “where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age.”

Of the 71 cases attended in 1953, Home Helps were provided for the following reasons: 10 illness, 17 maternity, and 44 chronic sick.

(F) Care and After Care

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

(G) School Health Service

Number of schools in district	18
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1953	2822
Number of children examined at school during 1953	1190
this figure being made up as follows:—	
Routine examinations	867
Re-examinations	323
Number of children referred for treatment	99

(H) Immunisation and Vaccination

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and whooping-cough and vaccination against smallpox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time to 31-12-53

Age at 31-12-53 i.e. born in year	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
No. Immunised	65	143	161	174	231	1073	994	2841

Total

Estimated Mid-year population (under 15 years) ... 3990

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation 1953

Age	0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Began and completed Injections 1953	65	53	11	3	3	5	6	4	6	3	1	3	4	-	-

Total 167

Immunised in previous years re-treated 1953	-	-	-	-	15	37	165	102	19	-	9	9	3	1	-
---	---	---	---	---	----	----	-----	-----	----	---	---	---	---	---	---

Total 360

Vaccination against Smallpox 1953

556 people were vaccinated against smallpox during the year, 86 of whom were children under the age of one year. Many of the children were vaccinated at the Child Welfare Centre at Allan House.

Immunisation against Whooping-Cough 1953

103 children under the age of 4 years were immunised against whooping cough under the provisions of the County Council scheme.

SECTION IV

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary of Notifications received in year 1953

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified
Scarlet fever	36
Whooping cough	146
Acute poliomyelitis	1
Measles	211
Diphtheria	—
Acute pneumonia	32
Dysentery	22
Smallpox	—
Acute encephalitis	—
Enteric or typhoid fever	—
Erysipelas	4
Meningococcal infection	—
Food poisoning	—
Puerperal pyrexia	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis	20
Other forms of tuberculosis	3
	<hr/>
Total	477
	<hr/>

Tuberculosis

The number of new cases notified during 1953 are given in detail in the following table:—

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
0— 1	2	—	—	—
1— 5	—	2	—	1
5—10	3	1	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	1
15—20	—	1	1	—
20—25	—	3	—	—
25—35	6	1	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—
Totals	12	8	1	2

There was one death from tuberculosis during 1953

REPORT

of the

Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending 31st December, 1953

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
Committee of the Urban District of Sowerby Bridge

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on (a) the general sanitary conditions in the area, (b) the housing conditions, including overcrowding, (c) the inspection and supervision of food, for the year ending 31st December, 1953, and for the Cleansing Department for the year ending 31st March, 1954.

A considerable amount of time is devoted to the preparation of the Annual Report, not only in the compiling of the many statistical tables, but also in the report itself.

I feel that although masses of figures are necessary, one can be too technical, and accordingly, wherever possible, explanatory notes have been included. I therefore trust that in reading this report the Members will find it interesting, and realise that the Department, in its efforts, endeavours to improve the general sanitary conditions of the district.

The private water supplies of the district have again taken up a considerable amount of time, but the results have not been quite as spectacular as last year, owing to the fact that much of the time has been occupied in surveying, sampling and general field work, together with interviewing the very many owners involved. In all cases these private supplies are subject to pollution, and the only satisfactory way in dealing with them is either the re-construction of the same or the provision of the public supply, but whatever method is adopted it is the aim of the Department to have, as far as possible, adequate and wholesome water supplies throughout the district. There are, unfortunately, certain difficulties to be overcome. Many of the houses without a proper water supply are substandard, and are in the outer districts where the water main is not usually conveniently situated. This could involve a considerable expenditure in either the extension of

the main or the re-construction of the private supply, and in such circumstances the owners appear reluctant to put money into substandard property.

As previous reports show, many private supplies have been made satisfactory, whilst others have been condemned and the town's main provided. Private supplies, however, still exist, some good, some bad, but these cannot be dealt with at one time and it is the policy of the Department, in co-operation with the Waterworks Department, to deal with the larger supplies first, especially the larger private supplies which cannot be made fit.

Unfortunately, when houses have been supplied with water for many years, be it ever so inadequate, many of the owners, although at first very enthusiastic about the provision of an alternative supply, seem to lose interest immediately any costs are mentioned. It is hard to believe that in 1954 people will be content to live in a house, in many instances quite well built, with no bathroom, no hot water supply and no W.C., and no hope of providing the same with the inadequate supply available. The only supply that exists is a cold water tap over a sink. Improvements will have to come if the property is going to last. These improvements can only come about with the provision of an adequate water supply, and should the owners fail to take advantage to improve the sanitary conditions and provide other essentials, the Department will not hesitate to deal with the property in a manner as the law provides. With a little co-operation from the owners, there is, in my opinion, no reason why a considerable amount of the property should not have quite a long life and thus repay them for any money expended in the improvement of the property.

The lack of maintenance and general amenities extend to beyond our more rural parts. In the urbanised area there are many properties which, due to the lack of attention, are falling into a state of disrepair. The answer of the owners is still the same—low rents, with the high cost of repairs, labour and materials. One must sympathise to some extent with many property owners, who, under these very adverse conditions, have endeavoured to keep the property in a reasonable state of repair, and continue to do so, but the owner and the agent is still with us, drawing a maximum from the property and putting little or nothing back, and selling immediately a vacancy occurs.

The time is rapidly approaching when schemes will be drawn for the scheduling and clearance of many areas. It is to be regretted that many of these owners are not as willing

now to devote time and money to the property as they will be when the property is scheduled. It may then be too late.

I feel that the extracts from the Interim Housing Report, submitted to the Public Health Committee, which are inserted immediately prior to the Housing Statistics, dealing in the main with slum clearance, are worthy of note.

The cleansing continues to take up quite a lot of time, for whilst this service should run quite smoothly, as the work is mostly of a routine nature, unfortunately it has, over the past few years, become increasingly difficult. One expects difficulties and obstacles from time to time, but during the last year or so the Department has had more than its fair share. This has been due to numerous causes, sickness being one of the main contributors, as at one period there was more than half the cleansing staff away, and in order to complete the rounds, which were constantly behind, a considerable amount of overtime had to be worked, and as overtime had been cut out of the estimates, overspending was inevitable. I feel that this was unavoidable and necessary in order to maintain at least some semblance of reasonable collection.

The rising costs of the Department have been to me a very great concern, but they have been due to circumstances entirely beyond the control of the Department, and I feel that it is unfair to expect the work to be completed in an efficient manner with the same staff, whilst the Council continue to build new houses, the planners of which show little or no concern about the placing of the dustbin, as with grass verges and steps to the front and no access to the back the additional walk per house is approximately 30 yards, which is usually travelled four times with the collection and return of the bin.

The work is consequently growing, but the staff is not, and I feel that it is impossible to keep asking more and more from the existing staff without some dissension.

Whilst dealing with the costs of the Department, may I respectfully refer to the travelling facilities provided for the staff. As we are all well aware, the district is very scattered and the inspectors must travel to all parts where there are

houses, schools, farms, etc., which in many instances are well away from the main roads, and to rely on public transport which does not travel to all parts of the district is, to say the least, extremely wasteful, and I feel that if the Council is to get the most out of its officers then travelling facilities should be provided.

I have explained on several occasions that it has not been possible, owing to the pressure of basic sanitary inspection, to carry out all the duties of the office in a manner that I should have liked, and it is unfortunate that more time has not been devoted to such important matters as the smoke problem of the district, the inspection of factories and food shops, but the inspectors have been fully occupied, as the report shows, with duties under the Housing Act, Public Health Act, and to a large degree with the improvement of water supplies and sanitary conditions, and I feel that it will be extremely difficult for the existing staff, under the present conditions and also in view of the fact that additional duties are to be placed on the Department in the coming year, to cope with all the duties of the Department efficiently.

It is always pleasing to me to be able to meet the members of the Public Health Committee informally, and to make a tour of the district in order to talk and examine the many problems as they exist. I feel that these tours are beneficial to all concerned, and generally prove both interesting and instructive. It was, however, observed on this occasion that the whole of the duties of the Department could not be covered in the short time allocated, and one therefore looks to the future when separate visits will be made to the Cleansing Department, to the housing of the district and to general and miscellaneous visits.

May I conclude these remarks by expressing my appreciation to the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor H. Haigh, and also to the Health Committee for their assistance in the various duties undertaken by the Department. Also to the help so readily given by the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. Lyons.

My thanks are also due to the staff of the Department, Mr. J. Holmes, the Additional Sanitary Inspector, to the clerical staff, also to the Foreman of the Cleansing Department together with the employees, who have carried out their work in such an efficient manner.

I should also like to thank all the officials of the Council who so kindly co-operate in supplying general information for this report.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. E. FOSTER,

A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Supply

The Public Water Supply continues to give satisfaction, as samples which have been obtained for both chemical and bacteriological examination have again been satisfactory.

The public supplies in Norland (Sowerby Bridge Supply) and Triangle (Ripponden Supply) also continue to give satisfaction, as the samples indicate.

During the year the town's main has been extended in the following areas, mainly in connection with additional housing:—

Sowerby Housing Site No. 1 ...	140 yds. of 4in. pipe.
	117 yds. of 2in. pipe.
	222 yds. of 3in. pipe.
Sowerby Housing Site No. 2 ...	100 yds. of 4in. pipe.
	260 yds. of 3in. pipe.
	104 yds. of 2in. pipe.
Rooley Lane, Sowerby Town ...	212 yds. of 6in. pipe.
Norland Road	183 yds. of 3in. pipe.

Private Supplies

One of the black spots in the district has been the Midgley and Luddenden areas. A considerable amount of time has been spent over the past few years on the various private supplies, resulting in all but the very isolated ones above the Midgley School being completely overhauled.

In addition to these, the supplies at Booth, Dene House and the newly constructed supply at Providence Place, continue to give satisfaction. Only the supplies in the lower part of Midgley continue to give anxiety. A survey of the many private supplies hereabouts, which has covered nearly eighteen months, was completed towards the end of the year. After many meetings and interviews with the owners, both collectively and separately, mainly during evenings and weekends, it was pleasing to note the general agreement that existed, for the private supplies to be replaced with the town's supply.

Approximately 90% of the owners expressed their willingness by making formal application for the extension of the

public supply, and at the year end a joint meeting was held between the Waterworks and the Health Departments in order to work out the details of the scheme.

In addition, the supply feeding the Blackwood Hall area has also been sampled and found to be unsatisfactory, but unfortunately the owners in this area appear to be rather reluctant to connect to the town's main when this is provided, mainly on account of additional cost, and appear to be interested in re-constructing some of the existing private supplies in this area, which I consider to be totally unsatisfactory. It is hoped that during the coming year some agreement can be reached in order to provide these areas with an adequate supply of wholesome water.

The majority of private water supplies within the area have again been sampled, and been subjected to bacteriological examination. Details of these are set out as follows:—

District	Bacteriological Examination		
	Sat.	U/Sat.	Total
Sowerby Bridge	1	—	1
Luddenden Foot	40	13	53
Midgley	9	28	37
Sowerby	4	6	10
Triangle and Millbank ...	23	1	24
Norland	8	—	8
Ripponden U.D.C. supply	2	—	2
Halifax Corporation supply	1	—	1
Totals ...	88	48	136

Plumbo-Solvency: 6 Satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage

During the year new sewers have been provided for the new housing site at Sowerby, as follows:— 1,207 yds. of 6in. foul water sewer, together with 1,035 yds. of 6in. surface water sewer, and 380 yds. of 9in. surface water sewer.

A survey has been completed by the appropriate Departments on the extension of the sewer in the Norland area, and this is to be presented to the Minister in the near future. Unfortunately, the extension of the sewer at Dene House, Luddenden and Shield Hall Lane, is still held up, but it is hoped that agreement can be reached in the near future on these matters.

In the outlying districts there are still parts which are unsewered, and the approximate number of houses not connected to sewers at the end of the year was 479.

A considerable amount of work has been completed in the re-construction of defective drainage systems which have been found, due either to complaint or on routine inspections. The contour of the land of the district is such that defective drainage systems soon show themselves either by flooding cellars or by causing excessive dampness, and whilst certain of these are comparatively easy to remedy, others present great difficulties. Details relative to the number of inspections and tests carried out during the year are set out under the heading "General Sanitary Inspections."

Sewage Disposal

The Sewage Works of the district, at Milner Royd, Sowerby Bridge and High Royd, Luddendenfoot, continue to give satisfaction. The matter of reception of trade effluent is still under consideration.

Sanitary Accommodation

There are in the district some 4,227 W.C.s, 16 waste water closets, 529 pails and 23 privies. The percentage of properties on the water carriage system is approximately 87.7.

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken by the conversion of pails and privy middens, and during the year 100 pails have been converted to W.C.s, together with 7 privies. In addition to this there have been 16 additional W.C.s provided for old property and 40 provided for new houses.

All the work under this heading is completed entirely by negotiations rather than by formal notice, and a grant of £5 is made by the Council towards each conversion. I feel that during the past year great headway has been made in the improvement of the general sanitary conditions in the more rural parts of the district. It is still to be regretted that much of the accommodation in the more congested parts of the district is joint, and by its very nature continues to give trouble, both by the lack of cleansing and the objectionable use.

As I have mentioned in the past, owing to the general design of the properties which, almost without exception in these instances, is back to back, it is not possible, without re-construction, to offer separate accommodation which I feel is necessary.

The types of accommodation in the district are set out as follows:—

Number of Privies with Ashpits	17
Number of Privies with Covered Middens ...	6
Number of Pail Closets	529
Number of Pedestal W.C.s, including Factories and Shops	4227
Number of Trough Closets	21
Number of Waste Water Closets	16
	<hr/> 4816 <hr/>

The pails of the district are sub-divided as follows:—

District	Pails	Privies	Ashpits
Triangle and Mill Bank ...	63	8	—
Sowerby Bridge	24	—	—
Norland	113	2	—
Sowerby and Blackwood ...	124	12	—
Luddenden Foot (inc. Butts Green)	129	—	—
Midgley	76	1	—
Totals	529	23	—

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

The public cleansing of the district, with the exception of street cleansing, is the responsibility of the Health Department. This includes the collection and disposal of the house refuse throughout the area, and includes the cleansing of pails, privies, etc., and the collection of trade and market refuse. The collection of waste paper, salvage and kitchen waste is also undertaken.

The bins in the majority of the urban area are emptied on a weekly basis, whilst the properties in the out-district, totalling some 20% of the ashbins, continue fortnightly. With the increase in the number of houses, and the difficulty in recruiting suitable labour, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the regular weekly collection which is necessary. The work in the Department, in my opinion, is the most arduous on the Council, and at times is quite objectionable, and nothing is more discouraging to the men than to be

constantly behind with the work. All the vehicles are working a full 44 hour week on refuse collection, and with the 5 day week being worked it becomes necessary to work the additional Saturday morning in order to complete the removal of Friday's market refuse and the remainder of the trade refuse throughout the district.

It is unfortunate that there has been so much sickness during the year in the Department, amounting at one period to 50% of the employees, and consequently an additional burden is being thrown on to the remainder. The employees in the Department are generally good workers and quite conscientious, but it is understandable why these men seek alternative employment, usually less arduous, with, in many cases, a greater return.

I have, in previous years, referred to the very unsatisfactory state of the communal ashbin place, but I have again to report that there is no improvement, neither do I think any improvement will be forthcoming until the ashbin places have been re-sited and the existing arrangements discontinued. Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult, owing to the general design of the properties, to carry out such improvements, but I feel that not only are the present arrangements a nuisance and prejudicial to health, but the cleansing of these districts would be completed much quicker if the bins were used in a proper manner instead of these communal eye-sores being used as an ashpit.

Details of the work of the vehicles in the Department are set out as follows:—

Vehicle	Ashbins	Ashpits	Pails	Loads	Tons	Cwts
Karrier No. 6	30325	7	—	1064	1289	19
Bedford No 7	112560	—	—	1139	1596	15
Bedford No. 8	5862	88	31924	984	1248	10
S.&D. No. 9	107087	—	—	528	1699	—
	—————	—	—————	—————	—————	—
Totals	255834	95	31924	3715	5834	4
	—————	—	—————	—————	—————	—

Transport

Details of the transport operated by the Department are set out as follows:—

No.	Make	Year of Purchase	Capacity	Service
6	Karrier Bantam	1946	7 cu. yds.	Ashbins, Salvage & Trade Refuse.
7	Bedford	1947	7 cu. yds.	Ashbins
8	Bedford	1949	7 cu. yds.	Pails and Pits
9	S & D Rear F & A Loader	1951	18 cu. yds.	Ashbins

I am pleased to report that during the year the newly acquired garages at Mearclough were put into operation. The arrangements here, with the central heating and additional facilities for cleaning and greasing the vehicles, should add to the efficiency of the Department. The stores have now been completely removed from the basement of the Council Offices, and a portion of the new garage provided for this purpose. The building has also been extended in order to house the Salvage Depot and provide a canteen and sanitary and washing facilities for the employees. I feel that this is greatly appreciated by the employees, who have now available ample supplies of hot water, etc., for washing at the end of the day's work, and also adequate provision for heating or for preparing a meal, should this be required.

As already explained, the transport of the Department is fully extended during the 44 hours on the cleansing of the district, and accordingly the cleaning and greasing of the waggons has to take place during either Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon, being at overtime rates. All the vehicles received a complete engine overhaul, but owing to the very nature of the district the vehicles require greater attention than in a more level area. In consequence, therefore, the general running costs are increased. At the present time all vehicles are worked to capacity, and when one is taken off the road for repairs, then the work automatically goes behind due to the fact that no additional transport is available, and it has been my policy to avoid as far as possible hired transport. It is, however, pleasing to note that consideration is being given to the provision of additional transport, which will considerably ease the position when breakdowns occur.

In addition to the transport listed above, a Bedford Van is available for use by the Cleansing Foreman and the Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Accidents

During the year the transport has been involved in 11 accidents, 10 of which were of a minor nature. Unfortunately, the majority (9) of these involved the large S.D.9 and Bedford 7, each of which is engaged upon the weekly in-district round, 8 of these accidents were of a minor nature. The accident rate of these two vehicles appears relatively high, but the damage caused was mostly to garden walls, gate posts, man-hole covers, lamp standards, etc., and in the majority of these cases the road conditions (narrowness, uneven surfaces and icy conditions) were a contributory cause. The out-district vehicles were each involved in 1 accident, whereas the van had an accident-free year.

In fairness to the drivers, I must say that I feel that they are, generally speaking, very capable, and are very concerned when they have to report an accident. They are, however, quite proud when at the end of the year they are able to report an accident-free period.

Storage

During the year the general sanitary conditions in the out-district have been greatly improved, with the result that the number of pail closets have been reduced considerably. When these conversions take place it is my aim to convert in a complete area in order that this may be taken from the round, although the bins in these areas will still have to be cleansed. It is hoped to continue with the scheme of conversion, which will in the near future reduce the number of pail closets in the district to a minimum. It is pleasing to note that the number of privies has also been reduced. Details of the storage accommodation in the district are set out as follows:—

Year	Pail Closets	Privies	Ash Pits	Ash Bins
1948	683	72	—	6153
1949	672	60	—	6174
1950	655	51	—	6197
1951	625	45	—	6208
1952	629	30	—	6229
1953	529	23	—	6314

Municipal Ashbin Scheme

The Municipal Ashbin Scheme has now been in operation for 5 years, and continues to work satisfactorily. In view of the costs involved, the scheme has, during the year, been discussed and examined in detail. The alternative, provided

under the 1936 Public Health Act, was outlined as against the present arrangement for the provision of free bins, certain conditions being involved, chargeable to the rate fund, as a result of which it was decided to continue with the present scheme.

Details of the charges since the inception of the scheme are set out as follows:—

1949/50	...	...	...	£231 (3 months)
1950/51	...	...	...	£620
1951/52	...	...	...	£382
1952/53	...	...	...	£535
1953/54	...	...	...	£444

During the current year, details of the scheme are as follows:— 301 ashbins have been provided free of charge, whilst the charges for 83 have been recovered.

In the case of pails, which are also covered by the scheme, 37 were issued free, whilst 2 were charged for.

From these figures, the cost of the scheme has amounted to £444, or 1.28 penny rate.

Details of the cost, etc., are set out below:—

Cost of Ashbins supplied during the year	...	...	...	...	543	7	9
Cost of Pails supplied during the year	...	...	...	...	24	18	3
						568	6 0
Bins charged for	...	...	...	121	17	4	
Pails charged for	...	...	...	2	1	10	
						123	19 2
Cost of Municipal Ashbin Scheme	...	...	...	£444	6	10	

Trade Refuse

With the rising costs of transport and labour charges, the trade refuse charges of the district have been carefully considered. In the past each shop or trading establishment has had one bin of trade refuse removed free, whilst a charge of 6d. was made for each additional bin or part thereof.

The charges have been discussed at great length, resulting in the free bin remaining, whilst the charges for the additional bin have been increased by 6d., which now means that each bin of refuse is charged at 1s. 0d.

The trade refuse is removed weekly, with the exception of vegetable refuse, which is removed three times per week, and the market is attended to immediately following the two market days.

The amount of trade refuse removed during the year was approximately 178 tons, and this, with the increased charge, brought in a revenue of approximately £184.

Refuse Disposal

With the curtailing of the estimate of the Department, it was necessary to close down the controlled tip at Daisy Bank which, in the past, has received the refuse from Midgley, Blackwood Hall and part of Luddendenfoot. This has now to be transported to the Milner Royd tip which is at the extremity of the district, necessitating an additional haul of some three miles, being the return journey between Daisy Bank and Milner Royd. This will, without doubt, slow down the collection of the refuse in the Midgley district, but it has meant the reduction of the staff on the tips by two persons, thus affecting a considerable saving. Whether this saving can be measured merely in the men's wages remains to be seen.

The tip at Milner Royd is controlled in a proper manner, and there has been a complete absence of any fire, although there has been from time to time an infestation of both crickets and rats. These have not been severe, and maintenance treatments have continued throughout the year. The tip is being used increasingly by the local tradesmen, and although this does bring an increased revenue, as charges are made for all materials tipped, at 2s. 6d. per load with the exception of good clinker, it does increase the work of the tip attendants.

Salvage

It is pleasing to record the provision of a new Salvage Depot. The original depot at Holmes Road has served the department extremely well, but when the Council embarked upon salvage in 1939 one did not visualise it continuing and increasing to such an extent.

More than 2,300 tons of paper have been baled in this depot, but it was felt that it required complete re-construction if its use was to be continued. As a new depot was considered desirable and the Cleansing Department should, as far as possible be self contained, an extension was built to the recently acquired garage, together with the provision of adequate washing facilities and sanitary accommodation.

There has been no difficulty in the disposal of waste paper, and I am pleased to report that there has been an increase in the amount of waste paper collected, but unfortunately the price has again decreased. It is, however, unfortunate that such a large quantity finds its way into the bin, resulting in the loss of a valuable material and of a revenue which would benefit the ratepayer.

The amount of waste paper collected in 1952 was approximately 151 tons, the income being £1,238. In 1953 this has been increased to 187 tons, bringing in an income of £1,314.

The bonus scheme for the employees is still in operation. This is paid twice per year, provided the basic figure is exceeded.

The collection of kitchen waste has continued from the canteens and the communal bins in the district, but it was pleasing to note that this was de-controlled in July. At this time certain communal bins were removed from the streets, but the collection from canteens, etc., still continued, but with the continual reduction in price this work was discontinued at the beginning of 1954.

I have never been in favour of the communal bins on the streets, but must agree that they have served a very useful purpose, as a considerable amount of vegetable refuse has been removed from the bins by reason of these communal bins being available, and it has provided a service which was necessary during the war years, but I am pleased to see these bins removed from the streets, and I am sure that many householders will share these sentiments.

The revenue from the collection and disposal of kitchen waste, although it covered the actual cost, deprived the Department from operating its vehicles on their true function. With the removal of these bins it has enabled the Department to pay a little more attention to the out-district.

Details of the sale of residuals, together with the revenue from the same, are set out as follows:—

Materials Salvaged.				T. C. Q.			£ s. d.		
Waste Paper	...	...	...	154	2	3	1008	11	8
Fibreboard	...	...	...	19	0	1	171	11	1
Newsprint	...	...	...	13	11	2	133	16	7
Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	66	6	0	145	1	5
Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	26	9	0	49	18	9
Non-Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	0	2	1	5	7	6
Rags	...	...	...	0	2	3	2	15	0
Carpets	...	...	...	0	19	0	4	15	0
				280	13	2	£1521	17	0

Complete details of the salvage recovered since the Council commenced salvage operations are set out as follows:—

SALVAGE SALES 1939 to 1953

Year	Total Tonnes for all Materials			Waste Paper			Ferrous Metals and Loose Tins			Non-Ferrous Metals			Textiles and Rubber			Cullet			Kitchen Waste and Bones			Value		
	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
1939	9	1	2	7	1	2	2	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	1	0
1940	380	3	0	240	3	1	106	0	3	13	2		2	3	2	15	15	1	15	6	3	1259	3	7
1941	453	17	3	281	9	2	90	1	1	1	10	0	7	14	3	55	14	0	17	8	1	1445	6	2
1942	380	6	3	286	10	1	66	5	3	1	11	1	5	10	3	15	2	1	5	6	2	1783	17	3
1943	382	2	2	196	16	2	125	10	3	6	1		4	13	2	31	12	1	23	3	1	1595	6	6
1944	428	16	1	148	18	1	9	12	1	—	—	—	16	0		5	5	0	264	4	3	1379	8	5
1945	506	3	0	112	16	3	6	19	0	6	0		8	0		9	14	2	375	18	3	1315	0	9
1946	386	7	3	112	19	1	9	4	0	7	3		15	2		16	1	1	247	0	0	1133	3	9
1947	199	8	0	92	2	3	5	12	0	12	0		11	2		8	15	2	91	14	1	699	1	10
1948	199	9	0	110	10	3	6	17	3	3	3		6	0		5	1	3	76	9	0	871	6	4
1949	237	0	0	155	13	1	12	3		—	—	—	4	1		2	11	3	77	18	0	1097	6	10
1950	215	12	2	158	6	0	4	10	2	19	1		1	3		—	—	—	51	15	0	1222	19	1
1951	238	0	1	162	11	3	14	14	0	5	1		5	1		—	—	—	60	4	0	2742	8	9
1952	247	2	2	150	16	3	28	4	1	5	2		1	5	0	—	—	—	66	11	0	1540	15	7
1953	280	13	2	186	14	2	26	9	0	2	1		1	1	3	—	—	—	66	6	0	1521	17	0
	4544	4	1	2403	11	0	502	14	0	7	2	3	25	17	2	165	13	2	1439	5	2	19627	21	0

Infectious Disease and Disinfection

Visits in connection with notifiable infectious disease have continued throughout the year, and disinfection has been carried out where necessary. The usual investigations for the prevention of the spread of disease have been completed. Details of the visits, etc., are set out as follows:—

Enquiries into cases of Infectious Disease ...	...	54
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits ...	...	24
Visits re Disinfection ...	... ..	41

There has also been a considerable amount of Dysentery notified during the year. 95 visits have been completed in connection with the cases notified, and in addition 94 specimens have been forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, 45 being positive. Certain of these cases extended into 1954.

During the year the Inspectors volunteered their services to a neighbouring authority where a number of cases of Small-pox had been notified. Here 32 visits were made in connection with enquiries and disinfection. Visits and enquiries to contacts, etc., within Sowerby Bridge, totalled 301.

Smoke Abatement

The amount of work in connection with the observation of factory chimneys and general atmospheric pollution has not received the attention which I should have desired. This has been due to the pressure of work in other directions, and I feel that with the increased duties, even less time will be devoted to this very important subject unless additional staff is made available.

The number of observations taken during the year have totalled 26, of which 18 showed an excessive emission of black smoke. Cautions were issued in each case, but it was not found necessary to take formal action. There were 2 complaints of black smoke during the year, and both were successfully dealt with.

I do not consider that the pollution of the atmosphere has increased, but I do feel that the position could be greatly improved if more time were devoted to this subject. I also consider that a major contribution in the reduction of the pollution of the atmosphere could be achieved if many of the ranges now being installed which burn smokeless fuel would be used in the proper manner, instead of consuming “nutty slack” and other high volatile fuels.

Factories

As a result of general inspection and complaint from H.M. Factories Inspectors, 30 inspections of the factories throughout the district have been made, as a result of which 4 contraventions of Section 7 of the Factories Act were observed. All of these, together with 1 outstanding at the end of the year were satisfactorily completed.

It is pleasing to note the steady improvement of the sanitary and washing facilities of the factories throughout the district.

Details of the inspections and defects are set out in the following tables:—

Inspections

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
In which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority	21	5	—
Where Section 7 is enforced	129	25	4
Total ...	150	30	4

Defects Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Inadequate Ventilation ...	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences			
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	2
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—
Total ...	4	4	2

Swimming Bath

The Public Swimming Bath has again been available to the public during the summer season, during which period

samples of water have been obtained for both chemical and bacteriological examination. Of the 10 samples obtained for bacteriological analysis, all were found to be satisfactory. The chemical analyses were also found to be quite satisfactory, the pH value of the water being 7.4, and the amount of chlorine was approximately .5 parts per million at the inlet and .4 parts per million at the outlet.

There appear to have been very few complaints regarding the condition of the water. There are no private swimming pools in the area.

Nuisances (Part 3, Public Health Act, 1936, except Smoke Nuisances)

The number of inspections made during the year for nuisances only, under Part 3 of the Public Health Act, 1936, totalled 83. These were in connection with 35 nuisances which were outstanding at the end of 1952, and 37 which were found during the year. 62 informal notices were served during the year, of which 60 were complied with. In addition there were 3 Statutory Notices issued, of which 1 was complied with. Legal proceedings were taken in one instance, in which judgment was given for the Authority. The details under this heading do not include the very many visits made in connection with the sanitary inspection of the area, housing inspections and inspections under public cleansing.

As referred to in the last Annual Report, the Council decided to undertake the clearing of choked drains, provided these did not exceed the cost stated in the West Riding (General Powers) Act. During the year 73 private drains have been attended to. The majority were of a very minor nature, being merely the blockage of the gully. Others were of a more major nature, involving the rodding of the entire system.

Every assistance has been given by the Department during the year in the abatement of nuisances, and where this has involved more than one owner, then the Department has agreed to carry out the work upon the receipt of an authorisation, and to allocate the cost according to user. This has worked very successfully, and has been appreciated by the owners concerned. The work has been carried out in a purely informal manner.

Offensive Trades

There have been no additions to the Register of Offensive Trades, and no applications have been received. At the end of the year there were 29 establishments on the register, 28 of

which were Fish Friers. No notices were served during the year, and the number of inspections made for this purpose totalled 13.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

	Visits.
Bakehouses	10
Camping Sites	9
Conversions—Visits	110
Dangerous Buildings	5
Drainage, etc.	317
Factories	30
Fried Fish Shops	11
General Administration	22
Hairdressers	16
Houses Let in Lodgings	3
Interviews	200
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	98
Offensive Trades	2
Petrol Pump Inspections	26
Public Conveniences	16
Refuse Collection	358
Refuse Disposal	164
Rodent Control (excluding Sewer Maintenance)	95
Salvage	48
Sanitary Accommodation—Defects	71
Schools	10
Shops	67
Smoke Observations	26
Stables, Piggeries and Poultry	18
Tents, Vans and Sheds	2
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	3
Visits re Cleansing Administration	81
Water Courses—Survey	22
Water Supplies	250
	<hr/>
	2090

HOUSING

The inspection and repair of insanitary houses, and the investigation of complaints under both the Public Health and Housing Acts, has for some considerable time become increasingly difficult. The district, which is a typical West Riding industrial area, has perhaps rather steeper contours than other districts in the West Riding, and accordingly presents more housing difficulties.

Within the 5,763 acres are some 6,500 dwellings, the majority of these being of working class type and rather heavily congested in parts of Sowerby Bridge and Luddendenfoot, whilst in the out-districts of Norland, Sowerby, Mill Bank and Midgley much of the housing is rural in character and amenity, although improvements in the sanitary conditions, water supplies, etc., have been taking place for some considerable time.

A general, although somewhat rapid survey of the general housing conditions has taken place during the year, and although this is incomplete regarding details, it is hoped to give a general picture of the position and to act merely as an interim report.

In the congested areas the density of the property varies between 30 and 40 houses per acre. It rises in certain isolated groups to more than 50 houses per acre, whilst the age of the majority of the property is between 70 and 100 years old, although some appear to have existed in 1834.

Prior to the war, 17 clearance areas were scheduled and 2 enquiries held, involving some 300 houses. In only 10 cases were demolition orders withheld. Since that time, a matter of 14 years ago, only odd houses have been closed, and no attempt has been made to start where the Department left off in 1939. The reason has been obvious, as the Council have been engaged in erecting houses, not demolishing them. In 1939 a considerable number of houses, by reason of their bad arrangement, lack of adequate natural lighting and air space, dampness and sanitary defects, were unfit for human habitation. These houses have not improved; rather have many other dwellings fallen into a similar state of disrepair, due to lack of maintenance brought about in many cases by high costs of labour and materials, coupled with the low rents.

Of the 6,500 dwellings previously referred to, more than 30% have no through ventilation, being either back to back, back to earth, single back or single room dwellings. The

majority of these houses have both joint sanitary and refuse accommodation, and are without baths and any means of hot water. This, in itself, presents quite a problem, but to attempt to deal with all these dwellings would be an impossibility. There are many of the dwellings that have but one obvious end. There are others which can be converted into through houses, with greatly improved amenities, and there are others which are structurally sound but too large to be converted into throughs and could, with internal improvements be made, in my opinion, quite satisfactory.

There are also a considerable number of other dwellings which are not back to back or back to earth, but which are very substandard and I feel that after very careful examination of the position, approximately 1,000 houses, or 15% of the houses in the district should be included in clearance areas.

The great problem which presents itself is (a) which houses should be dealt with first, (b) are the Council in a position to erect houses over a reasonable period to re-house these families, (c) are the families in a position to afford Council house rents? Many of the houses, as I have stated, are substantially built and would lend themselves for either improvement or conversion. Area improvement could, I feel, help to preserve these houses which would give them an additional lease of life and could be made into reasonably attractive modern dwellings, offering reasonable accommodation at a reasonable rent. The problem is very complex, and very careful consideration must be given before the final figures are concluded.

The usual half yearly inspections of the overcrowded and possible overcrowded houses have continued, and these, together with the suspicious cases brought to our attention as a result of inspection, have received attention. The housing cards, as far as possible, have been kept up to date by the entry of births and deaths, but unfortunately the records cannot be completely true owing to the difficulty in keeping a track of all changes of tenancy. Details of the overcrowding within the district are entered in Part 4 of the Housing Tables, set out below.

During the year 40 houses of the permanent type were erected by the Local Authority, and none by private enterprise.

The housing statistics for the year 1953 are set out as follows:—

1 Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	251
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	394
(2)	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3)		Number of dwellinghouses needing further action:—	
	(a)	Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
	(b)	Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	197

2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	150
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3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936:—

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—	
	(a) By owners	2
	(b) By Local Authority	1

B Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

- C Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwellinghouses unfit for habitation Nil
 - (2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
 - (3) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil
- D Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 2
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4 Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 53
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 64
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 344
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 10
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 37
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 234
- (d) Number of inspections made ... 282

The cases of overcrowding in the district are set out as follows:—

Ward	Old Cases	New Cases	No. Abated	Total
North	3	—	2	1
South	6	2	5	3
Central	10	1	3	8
East	14	1	4	11
Sowerby/Blackwood	8	4	4	8
Triangle/Norland	13	—	7	6
Luddenden Foot	9	2	1	10
Midgley	6	—	—	6
	—	—	—	—
Total	69	10	26	53
	—	—	—	—

5 New Houses.

Number of new houses provided during the year:

By the Local Authority:—

Permanent type	...	...	...	40
Temporary type	...	...	...	Nil
By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	Nil

6 Housing Act, 1949.

No applications for grants have been received from persons improving existing housing accommodation, as per Section 20.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Distribution

During the year the following Licences were issued under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Supplementary Licences to Retail Pasteurised Milk	...	3
Supplementary Licences to Retail Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	4
Supplementary Licences to Retail Sterilised Milk	...	3
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Pasteurised	...	13
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Tuberculin Tested	...	1
Dealer's Licence to use the designation T.T./Pasteurised	...	13
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Sterilised	...	23

There has been a considerable improvement during the year on the dumping of bottles and crated milk on vacant plots of land. Action has been taken with very satisfactory results, and it is only in isolated instances where this practice still continues.

It has been noticed during the year that there has been an ever increasing sale of bottled orange juice by the milk purveyors of the district. The orange juice appears to be manufactured and bottled in the large dairies of the district. Action has been taken in order to prohibit this practice in the local dairy, and in order to overcome this, premises apart from the main building have been utilised for this purpose. It is unfortunate that the manufacture and bottling of orange juice is allowed in pasteurising establishments in various parts of the country, which is in contravention of the Milk and Dairies Order.

Milk Sampling

During the year 12 samples of milk have been obtained from the milk retailers in the district. Details are as follows:

Designation	Satis.	Unsatis.	Total
T.T./Pasteurised	4	—	4
Tuberculin Tested	1	—	1
Pasteurised	2	—	2
Raw Milk	4	—	4
Sterilised	1	—	1
Total ...	12	—	12

Food Inspection

Inspection of the food shops, cafes, restaurants, etc., has been carried out during the year. Details of these are as follows:—

Butchers' Shops	26
Cow Sheds	2
Dairies and Milk Shops	9
Fish Merchants and Poulterers	3
Food Preparing Establishments	17
Food Storage Premises	3
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	3
Grocers	30
Ice Cream Premises	17
Pasteurising Establishment	7
Public Houses	17
Public Markets	86
Restaurants and Canteens	8
Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts	3
Miscellaneous Food Visits	17
	248

The general condition of the premises, including the equipment, continues to be satisfactory, but here again as in atmospheric pollution sufficient time has not been devoted to the regular inspection of these premises, and I feel that this work is being neglected in order to deal mainly with basic sanitary inspection in connection with improved sanitary conditions of houses, water supplies, sanitary accommodation, etc. It is, however, pleasing to note that the personnel

engaged in the food industry in the district appear to be quite conscious of their responsibilities to the public in preventing the contamination of food, and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness appears to be maintained. As a result of the general inspections, a quantity of food has been surrendered as unfit for human consumption. Details are as follows:—

				Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Vegetables	...	...	...	0	2	20	7
Meat	...	...	...	1	3	0	13½
Fruit	...	...	...	2	0	19	10½
Fish	...	...	...	0	0	16	0
Flour	...	...	...	2	2	0	0
Miscellaneous Foods	...	...	...	0	0	6	0
Total				7	1	6	15

58 tins Milk; 8 tins Cream; 17 tins Baby Food; 1 tin Bournvita; 1 pint Vinegar.

Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of ice cream within the district, all establishments merely retailing the ice cream, and only in two instances is loose ice cream sold. The remainder deal only in pre-wrapped ice cream.

During the year 17 inspections have been made of the 51 retailers within the district, which is an increase of 4 over the previous year. Details of retailers are as follows:—

Grocers and Mixed Shops	...	...	...	...	31
Sweets and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	13
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	5
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	2

The standard of cleanliness is quite satisfactory. Samples of each of the 12 separate makes of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination, and all were satisfactory, being placed in Grade 1.

FOOD PREPARING ESTABLISHMENTS

Bakehouses

A satisfactory standard of cleanliness has been maintained throughout the year. The detailed survey which was completed in 1951, in which the general conditions of the bakehouses were improved, has been maintained.

The Model Bakery in the district was completed early in 1953, and is now operating very satisfactorily.

There are 17 bakehouses on the register, none of which are of the underground type, and these have been visited on 10 occasions.

The cafes and restaurants of the district, which number 8, have been inspected from time to time, and although the conditions generally are satisfactory, in certain instances an improvement is desired. Informal notices have been served in two instances for unsatisfactory conditions, and work was proceeding to this end at the close of the year.

There was one prosecution during the year in connection with beetles in teacakes. The case was heard at the West Riding Magistrates' Court, judgment being given for the Council. Fines totalling £30 were imposed.

Public Houses

The improvement obtained after the detailed survey was completed in 1950 has been maintained, and general maintenance work has been continued throughout the year. The managements have been very anxious to complete the outstanding major works, but the necessary permission from the Government unfortunately has not been forthcoming.

The washing facilities in the bars continue to be very satisfactory, and almost without exception approved detergents are now used in the cleansing of glasses, etc. The provisions relative to sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, etc., continue to be satisfactory.

Food Poisoning

There have been no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

Food Hawkers

As a result of the provisions of the West Riding (General Powers) Act, 1951, all food hawkers entering the district, together with their storage premises, are now registered.

The carts, together with the storage premises within the district, continue to be satisfactory, and the number on the register at the end of the year totalled 28. Details are as follows:—

- 11 dealing in Bread and Confectionery.
- 8 dealing in Greengrocery, including Fish.
- 7 dealing in Ice Cream.
- 2 dealing in General Foodstuffs.

The general standard of the vehicles is satisfactory.

Rodent Control

As a result of inspection and complaint 43 premises were given full treatment. The infestations generally reported and found were not severe. Only one major infestation was observed. Details of the treatments are as follows:—

Refuse Disposal Sites ...	...	...	2
Salvage Depot	6
Private Dwellings	15
Business Premises	15
Factories	4
Farms	1
<hr/>			
			43
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In connection with this work 188 visits and inspections were made. The work for the most part was carried out with Warfarin and Oatmeal. The use of sausage rusk and zinc phosphide was confined to the tips and also to sewer baiting. The results have been quite satisfactory, and as stated in my last report, where Warfarin was used no re-infestation has developed, although during the year we have had the stray rodent entering certain business premises and factories soon after treatment. This has been mainly due to the siting of the factory, which has been either close to the river or the canal. The use of zinc phosphide and sausage rusk has been quite satisfactory on the refuse disposal sites, although as last year re-infestations have occurred. Here again, I feel that this is due to the site of the tip, which is adjoining the sewage works and the river and canal. The tip is therefore under constant observation, and at the latter part of the year Cymag was used on the more consolidated parts of the tip. This again had excellent results.

The sewers of the district have again been treated, the test bait being completed during the early part of the year, and this was followed by two maintenance treatments at an interval of six months. The details of the sewer treatment are set out below:—

Section	No. of Man-holes	No. not baited	No. Baited	Pre-bait taken			
				C	P	Total Takes	N.T.
Millbank/Triangle ...	69	58	11	1	4	5	6
Sowerby/Triangle ...	65	45	20	—	—	—	20
Luddenden Foot Dist. ...	77	58	19	6	5	11	8
Midgley District ...	67	60	7	—	—	—	7
Beechwood ...	92	82	10	—	—	—	10
Sowerby/Ludd. Foot ...	99	89	10	—	—	—	10
Sowerby Bridge Sec. 1 ...	92	59	33	5	6	11	22
Sowerby Bridge Sec. 2 ...	124	74	50	7	5	12	38
Sowerby Bridge Sec. 3 ...	121	80	41	5	3	8	33

C — Complete Take P — Partial Take NT — No Take

The above Table includes Test Bait.

It is pleasing to note that the number of manholes showing signs of infestation continues to decrease, whilst the sewers on the Beechwood Housing Estate and the new Housing Estate at Sowerby, together with the sewers in the Midgley area, showed no signs of infestation.

The dwellinghouses throughout the district still continue to be treated free of charge, but a small charge is made for work in this connection at business premises and factories, and is based on the length of time devoted to the work and the amount of bait used.

I feel that the public generally appreciates the work, and that many more would avail themselves of the facilities if the details were more widely known. Many of the treatments result from infestations discovered whilst carrying out routine housing or public health inspections.

Petroleum Acts and Orders

The Department is responsible for the licensing under the above Acts of all Petrol Stations selling Petroleum Spirit, or storing Carbide of Calcium and Cellulose Paint. At the commencement of the year the following licences were issued:

- 43 for storage of Petroleum Spirit.
- 4 for storage of Cellulose Paint or Petrol Mixtures.
- 3 for storage of Carbide of Calcium.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Application was received from 15 butchers for a licence under the above Act, these were granted without exception.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Slaughterhouse Licences

Application was received from the owners of 2 Slaughterhouses in the district for the continuance of the licence. Both these were granted.

